

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicants have canceled claims 2 and 7-30, without prejudice, to place the application in condition for allowance. Only allowed claims 1 and 3-6 remain pending in the application.

2.) Drawing Objections

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings for not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In particular, the Examiner objected to the fact that FIG. 2 does not show a first passive wavelength multiplexer (220) comprising a second passive wavelength multiplexer (210). This objection appears to relate to claim 13.

First, the Applicants note that claim 13 and its dependent claims have been canceled. Therefore, the withdrawal of the drawing objection is respectfully requested.

Second, the Applicants respectfully point out that claim 13 does not recite a first passive wavelength multiplexer comprising a second passive wavelength multiplexer. Claim 13 recites a system that includes a first passive wavelength multiplexer and a second passive wavelength multiplexer. The first passive wavelength multiplexer comprises a radio access unit, a fixed access unit, and a passive multiplexer unit. This is shown by the progressive indentation of the elements of the claim, and FIG. 2 shows every feature of the invention specified in canceled claim 13.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In paragraphs 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 7, 10-19 and 22-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graves, et al. (US 2002/0191250) in view of Deng, et al. (US 2002/0196491). The Applicants have canceled claims 7, 10-19 and 22-30 without prejudice.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected dependent claims 9 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graves in view of Deng

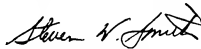
and further in view of Nishihara (US 6,512,616). The Applicants have canceled claims 9 and 21 without prejudice.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1 and 3-6.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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